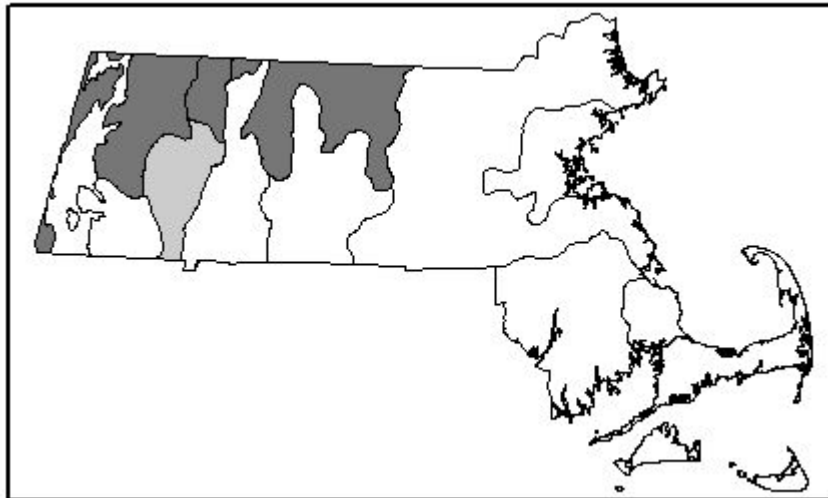


**Community Name:** SPRUCE - FIR - NORTHERN HARDWOODS FOREST

**Community Code:** CT1D100000

**SRANK:** S4



**Concept:** A northern and higher elevation mixed red spruce - northern hardwood forest.

**Environmental Setting:** Tends to be in cool, and typically rocky soils, nutrient poor, somewhat dry, and acidic. Grades into northern hardwoods - hemlock - white pine forests on moister, warmer slopes.

**Vegetation Description:** A community of variable dominance: red spruce may be dominant, or co-dominant with sugar maple and beech (or these may be dominant), with abundant yellow birch and smaller amounts of red spruce and/ or balsam fir. Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) can be abundant or scattered. Heart-leaf paper birch (*Betula cordifolia*) and paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) usually occur as scattered individuals. Characteristic shrubs include mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), red-berried elder (*Sambucus racemosa* var. *pubens*), northern mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*), and hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*). A low shrub layer has bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), and occasionally, twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*). The herbaceous layer tends to be sparse, especially when spruce is abundant; plants include intermediate fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), mountain wood fern (*Dryopteris campyloptera*), blue-bead lily (*Clintonia borealis*), painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), and wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).

**Associations:**

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** Animals of this community tend to be northern species that are more typical of forests of Vermont and New Hampshire. Birds include Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), and species of big warblers including Blackburnian (*Dendroica fusca*), Yellow-rumped (*D. dominica*), and Magnolia Warbler (*D. Magnolia*). Mammals include fisher (*Martes pennanti*), as a classic example, and northern species such as red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), in the open areas, northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*), and Pygmy shrews (*Sorex hoyi*). Amphibians would include the ubiquitous redbacked salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*), wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*), and red efts, the juvenile stage of red-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus v. viridescens*).

**Associated Rare Plants:**

AMELANCHIER BARTRAMIANA	BARTRAM'S SHADBUSH	T
DRYOPTERIS CAMPYLOPTERA	MOUNTAIN WOOD-FERN	- WL
HUPERZIA APPALACHIANA	APPALACHIAN CLUBMOSS	E
HUPERZIA SELAGO	MOUNTAIN FIRMOSS	E
LINNAEA BOREALIS	TWINFLOWER	- WL

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

MILIUM EFFUSUM	WOODLAND MILLET	T
RIBES TRISTE	SWAMP RED CURRANT	- WL
SORBUS DECORA	NORTHERN MOUNTAIN-ASH	E
STREPTOPUS AMPLEXIFOLIUS VAR AMERICANUS	WHITE MANDARIN	- WL

**Associated Rare Animals:**

NONE KNOWN

**Examples with  
Public Access:**

Mohawk Trail State Forest, Charlemont; Savoy State Forest, Savoy; Monroe State Forest, Monroe; Mt. Greylock State Reservation, Lanesboro.

**Threats:**

**Management Needs:**

**Synonyms**

**USNVC/TNC:**

Picea rubens - Abies balsamea Forest Alliance -- Abies balsamea- (Betula papyrifera var. cordifolia) Forest [CEGL006112]; Picea rubens - Betula alleghaniensis Forest Alliance -- Picea rubens - Betula alleghaniensis / Clintonia borealis Forest [ECGL006267]; Acer saccharum - Betula alleghaniensis - (Fagus grandifolia) Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum - Betula alleghaniensis - Fagus grandifolia / Viburnum lantanoides Forest [CEGL006252]; Tsuga canadensis - Betula alleghaniensis Forest Alliance -- Tsuga canadensis - Betula alleghaniensis - Picea rubens / Cornus canadensis Forest [CEGL006129]; Pinus strobus - Tsuga canadensis forest Alliance -- Pinus strobus - Tsuga canadensis - Picea rubens Forest [CEGL006324]

**MA (old name):**

CNE MESIC CONIFER FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK/TILL and CNE DRY CONIFER FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK OR TILL [CT2G1A2000].

**ME:**

Pine - Hemlock / Spruce Forest Community; Spruce slope forest community AND parts of Northern hardwood forest community.

**NH:**

1997 - Sugar maple - beech - red spruce forest; AND Northern hardwood - spruce - fir - forest (Acer saccharum - Fagus - Betula alleghaniensis - Picea rubens - Abies forest) 1994 - Sugar maple - beech - red spruce forest.

**VT:**

Montane Spruce- Fir forest.

**NY:**

Spruce - northern hardwood forest.

**CT:**

Not applicable.

**RI:**

Not applicable.

**Weatherbee:**

Mesic northern conifer forest

**Author:**

P. Swain

**Date:**

8/5/99